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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000288

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PARIS FOR STEVE ENGELKEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/04/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [SCUL](#) [UNESCO](#) [KV](#) [SA](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPECIAL ENVOY SADA CUMBER TO BAHRAIN

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i. Christopher Henzel for reasons 1 .4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Summary: Special Envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Sada Cumber paid a one-day visit to Bahrain to brief government officials.
- 2.(C) On April 27, Special Envoy Sada Cumber met with MFA Secretary for International Cooperation Ahmed Haddad. He briefed Haddad on the draft of the OIC-U.S. Joint Declaration on Cooperation.
- 3.(C) Special Envoy Cumber told Haddad that the first phase of U.S.-OIC cooperation would involve placing digital libraries in the ten poorest countries in the world.
- 6.(U) The Ambassador hosted a spirited lunch during which the Special Envoy engaged in a lively and wide-ranging discussion with several prominent Bahraini officials.
- 7.(U) Special Envoy Cumber concluded his one-day visit with a tour of the Beit al-Quran and its collection of rare Quranic manuscripts, followed by a visit to the National Library.
- 8.(SBU) Comment: The Special Envoy's message of one "shahada" resonates strongly with Bahrainis. Sectarianism is never far from the surface in this country.
- 9.(U) Special Envoy Sada Cumber has cleared this message. ***** Visit Embassy Manama's Classification *****